

REMARKS

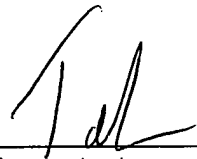
Claims 1-28 were originally filed in the present application. In the Office Action mailed 12/19/05, the Examiner restricted claims 1-28 into the following groups: Group I (Claims 1, 4-12 and 15), Group II (Claims 1-3 and 6-14), Group III (Claims 16-18, 21, 23, and 26-28), and Group IV (Claims 16-22, 24-25 and 28) ((Office Action, page 2). Applicants herein elect, without traverse, to prosecute the claims of Group I (Claims 1, 4-12 and 15). Applicants also herein cancel Claims 2-3, 13-14, and 16-28 in order to further their business interests and the prosecution of the present application, yet without acquiescing to the Examiner's arguments, and while preserving the right to prosecute the canceled (or similar) claims in the future.

The Examiner has further required the Applicants to elect a single nucleic acid species for prosecution of the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is found allowable (Office Action, pg. 5). The Applicants hereby elect the species of SEQ ID NO:3. Applicants remind that Examiner that upon allowance of a generic claims, Applicants are entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim (37 C.F.R. 1.141).

CONCLUSION

If a telephone interview would aid in the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned collect at (618) 218-6900.

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